

Dumping site closing seen hurting firms

By CHRIS PECK

News Tribune staff writer

The shutdown of the controversial Kin-Buc landfill could prove to be a windfall for one other chemical disposer but could hurt business for chemical plants and treatment facilities.

Those were the reactions of corporate heads of the alternative waste disposal firms listed by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Some were critical of the state regulatory agency's action taken against the Edison landfill, which was closed yesterday to accepting chemical waste because of "severe environmental problems."

"If they're closed, we can no longer accept chemicals because we dump our residues with them. So do most others in the state," said an official of one disposal firm.

Ray Rothchild, vice-president of National Converters Inc., said he would be laying off half of his staff (10) today because Kin-Buc was not available for dumping residues.

However, Ed Asheby, plant manager at Rollins Environmental Services Inc., Bridgeport, said his facility can accept the bulk of the 150,000 gallons of liquid waste dumped at Kin-Buc each day.

Rollins is one of nine firms listed by the DEP as alternatives for Kin-Buc customers, and the only one which can claim to treat all types of wastes handled at Kin-Buc.

Asheby said "four or five" of Kin-Buc's customers have decided to reroute their industrial wastes to Rollins.

Although Rollins' capacities are great it is not used at capacity. Asheby blames that on the price gap between Rollins and Kin-Buc. Rollins has a treatment facility with an incinerator which represents a substantial capital investment, he said.

He added that one Kin-Buc customer complained Rollins' prices were double those at Kin-Buc. His response was, "I'm not surprised." That same customer contacted later complained the price was even more than double.

Carleton Boll, president of Solvent Recovery Service of New Jersey in Linden, said he used Kin-Buc for disposing of residues left after treatment but anticipated there would be other legal ways to dispose of them. Although no supporter of landfilling chemicals, he was critical of the state's action in giving the chemical industries no alternative in closing it.

He expected the alternative of these industries would be to "put it in every single creek or stream they can find. Desperate people do desperate things."

Large chemical plants often have their own disposal operations, but small companies do not, he said. Therefore, the state action would be driving out the small chemical plants in New Jersey. Boll warned.

He said he has been approaching the state for the past 10 years with plans for an all-purpose resource recovery center, but he has been ignored. Boll said he was told the state planned to continue to allow chemical landfills but in gradually closing those, they made Kin-Buc a monopoly.

Kin-Buc was the last landfill allowed by the DEP to dispose of chemicals by mixing them with garbage at the landfill. Most other New Jersey treatment facilities deal in solvent recovery, or in treating chemical waste which can be recovered and reused.

Boll believed, however, the closing of Kin-Buc might increase his business. He said the formula for determining the feasibility of recovering chemical waste is the cost of purchasing new chemicals added to the cost of disposing them. If that combined price is less per unit than the cost of recovery, chemical plants might choose his solvent recovery method.

Kin-Buc has plans for a treatment facility similar to Rollins, but larger and without an incinerator. The corporate officers contend incinerators at other firms will be used when needed. They also guarantee the cost of chemical disposal will increase. The DEP is still reviewing those plans.

Chemical Control Corp. of Elizabeth treats chemicals through incineration and they had been contacted yesterday by Kin-Buc customers.

Their chemist, Michael Dunay, said they were turned down because Chemical Control only accepts certain wastes, those to be recovered, not disposed.

He said he believes there is a need for a chemical landfill to accept some items for which treatment is just not practical.

"What was wrong with Kin-Buc was they took everything, they weren't selective," Dunay said.

His firm uses thermal destruction of such chemicals as pesticides, cyanide, and pharmaceutical compounds.

He said the remaining residues are usually a salt compound which is relatively harmless and landfilled. He asserted that permits could be obtained for dumping the residue in the water, that it was pure enough, but said he had never applied for one.

While most of the heads of chemical treatment firms did not believe chemical landfills were environmentally sound, they generally said they believed the government should not cut off industry from the only low-cost disposal service so abruptly and without alternatives.

204801



7/22/76 Confusion continues over order

State officials were still debating whether or not to close Kin-Buc Inc. today, two days after a closing order went into effect.

Beatrice Tylutki, director of Solid Waste Administration for the Department of Environmental Protection, said yesterday a statement was expected to be issued today on the fate of the controversial landfill.

Kin-Buc officials have taken steps to comply with DEP regulations, according to Miss Tylutki. Whether these steps will be enough to keep the landfill open is still under discussion.

Kin-Buc has remained opened for the collection of solid wastes but is not accepting waste chemicals. Miss Tylutki said Kin-Buc officials are doing that on their own without permission from the DEP. Marvin Mahan, chairman of the board at Kin-Buc, said "there is some confusion" over that point as he understood the state objection was only with accepting chemical wastes.

Miss Tylutki had said the DEP would seek an injunction barring the landfill from operating if it continued in violation of the DEP order.

However, she said yesterday that the petition for an injunction was also to be considered at this morning's discussion.

The solid waste administrator acknowledged some pressure by industry against closing the landfill, as evidenced many calls which came to the DEP office yesterday.